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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/742,438	12/22/2000	Leandros Kontogouris	BEU/HK/KONTOGOURIS	8890
7590	09/16/2005		EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor Alexandria, VA 22314-1176			DURAN, ARTHUR D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3622	

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/742,438	KONTOGOURIS, LEANDROS
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Arthur Duran	3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-49 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-49 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 5-49 have been examined.

Response to Amendment

2. The Amendment filed on 8/8/05 is sufficient to overcome the prior rejection. A new reference has been added to the 35 USC 103 rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 states “preventing access to said desired address, service, or content that was requested by the user before the user requested access to said address, service, or content”. These features of this claim are unclear and require clarification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 8-11, 21, 22, 26-29, 35, 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auxier (6,379,251) in view of Hamzy (6,636,247).

Claim 1, 21, 35: Auxier discloses a method, system for ensuring that a user acknowledges an advertisement in exchange for access to an electronic address, service, or content, comprising: a computing or communications device of said user, said computing or communications device being connected to a provider of said address, service, or content, over a data communications network (Fig. 1); software arranged to be loaded onto said computing or communications device and arranged to participate in presentation of an interactive banner advertisement to the user when said user indicates a desire to access said address, service, or content (col 3, lines 57-61; Fig. 3; col 2, lines 10-20), wherein, upon presentation of the interactive banner advertisement, said user is permitted access to an address, service, or content only if the user submits an appropriate reply to the interactive banner advertisement (col 8, lines 60-65).

Auxier further discloses that when said user indicates a desire to access said address, service, or content via the computer network, causing an advertising server to present an interactive banner advertisement to the user (Fig. 6),

that, upon presentation of the interactive banner advertisement, said user is permitted access to an address, service, or content only if the user submits an appropriate reply to the interactive banner advertisement (col 8, lines 60-65).

Auxier further discloses targeting information and advertising to a specific user (col 3, lines 11-15)

Auxier does not explicitly disclose preventing access to said website, and continuing to prevent said access to said website so long as the user fails to submit the appropriate reply.

However, Hamzy discloses that the user requests access to a website, that a banner or advertisement is presented to the user that blocks access to the site the user requested, and that the user must enter an appropriate reply in order to gain access to the original website requested:

“(10) The present invention provides a system and method for displaying advertisements on the Internet in response to requests for Internet information from a specific website. In response to a request for a specific information available on the web, an advertisement associated with that web page is retrieved and displayed to the user. Within the display of the advertisement is embedded a randomly placed control function for proceeding from the advertisement to the web page of interest. Once the randomly placed control is activated by the user, the user requested information is displayed.

(11) The random or non-predictive control function can be the placement of buttons within the advertisement display. The control function can be a control key randomly placed within the advertisement. Another control function is asking a question that must be answered before proceeding to the web page of interest. A further control function according to the invention is to display the advertisement which is correlated to the particular web page for a predetermined time period before transferring the window containing the content or web page the user has selected” (col 2, lines 10-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Hamzy’s user requesting a website and then presenting an advertisement and blocking access to a user requested website until the user enters an appropriate reply to Auxier’s interactive advertisement that can be placed before the user is given access to a

site. One would have been motivated to do this in order to present advertising at a time that will attract attention from the user.

Additionally, Auxier discloses that the interactive banner advertisement provides information promoting a product or service (col 6, lines 22-26; col 1, lines 42-47; col 5, lines 35-42).

Auxier discloses that a user requests access to a webpage and that an interactive advertisement can be sent with the webpage data that was requested (Fig. 2).

Auxier further discloses tracking, monitoring, and recording advertisement delivery, interaction, success, etc (col 1, lines 27-60) and that users are targeted (col 3, lines 10-15).

Additionally, Auxier discloses that the user knows what website they will be sent to (Fig. 4, item 410, Advertiser Name) and that a user can be prevented from being given access to that requested website if the user does not offer an appropriate reply (col 8, lines 59-64).

Hence, Auxier discloses both sending an interactive advertisement with a webpage request that a user has made and Auxier discloses utilizing an advertisement that requires an appropriate user interaction or reply before a user is allowed to access a requested site (the Advertiser/Merchant site).

Additionally, Auxier discloses that the address, service, or content is provided by a server or broadcaster that is distinct from the advertising server (Fig. 1).

Claim 2: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 1, and Auxier further discloses that said electronic address, service, or content is an Internet uniform resource locator (col 1, lines 33-35).

Claim 22, 36: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 1, and Auxier further discloses that said electronic address, service, or content is content provided by a server connected to the Internet (col 1, lines 10-15).

Claim 8, 26: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 7, and Auxier further discloses that a provider of the electronic address, service, or content downloads said client software to the user's computing device when said user requests access to said electronic address, service, or content (Fig. 3; col 2, lines 10-20).

Claim 9, 27: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 8. Auxier further discloses that said client software is resident on said user's computing device before said user requests access to said electronic address, service, or content (col 4, lines 43-53; col 2, lines 10-15). Auxier further discloses the reception of special code that allows banner advertisements to be interacted with (col 4, lines 43-53) and that the special code can be stored on the client computer (col 2, lines 10-15). Therefore, Auxier implies that the special code can reside on the client computer before future requests for the user will make.

Claim 10, 28: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 8, and Auxier further discloses that said client software is resident on a server located at or that provides the electronic address, service, or content (Fig. 3; col 2, lines 9-11). Note that regardless of where the client software runs from, the client software is resident on the server before the client software is downloaded from the server to the client.

Claim 11, 29: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 1, and Auxier further discloses that said client software connects said user's computing device to a server located at or that provides said electronic address, service, or content, and wherein said server

carries out said steps of presenting said interactive banner advertisement and permitting access to said electronic address, service, or content (Fig. 3; col 2, lines 10-20).

4. Claim 7, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auxier (6,379,251) in view of Hamzy (6,636,247) in view of Griffiths (6,286,045).

Claim 7, 25: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 1.

Auxier discloses an interactive banner advertisement and permitting access to said service only if the user submits an appropriate reply to the banner advertisement as disclosed in the independent claim.

Auxier does not explicitly disclose that said client software connects said user's computing device to a proxy server, and wherein said proxy server carries out said steps of presenting said interactive banner advertisement.

However, Griffiths discloses banner advertisements (col 3, lines 13-21). Griffiths further discloses that said client software connects said user's computing device to a proxy server, and wherein said proxy server carries out said steps of presenting said interactive banner advertisement (Fig. 1; Fig. 3; col 4, lines 17-29). Griffiths further discloses taking measures for more efficient delivery of advertising over a network (col 1, lines 9-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Griffiths utilization of proxy servers with banner advertisements to Auxier's banner advertisements delivered over a network. One would have been motivated to do this for more efficient delivery of advertising over a network.

5. Claims 5, 6, 12-15, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39, 42-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auxier (6,379,251) in view of Hamzy (6,636,247) in view of Slotznick (6,011,537).

Claim 42, 44, 46, 47: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a banner advertisement, comprising: promotional text arranged in a box on a display screen of a computing or communications device and presented to a user of the computing or communications device who requests access to an electronic address, service, or content over a network (Fig. 4; col 3, lines 57-61); and area associated with said box for permitting entry of a response to said text (col 8, lines 60-65; Fig. 4),

wherein said banner advertisement prevents access to an electronic address, service, or content unless said response to said text is entered by the user (col 8, lines 60-65; Fig. 4).

Auxier further discloses that said banner advertisement is in a multimedia format (col 2, lines 5-9).

Auxier does not explicitly disclose that the promotional text is presented when the user requests access to content over a network.

However, Slotznick disclose that the promotional text is presented when the user requests access to content over a network (col 4, lines 49-56).

Slotznick further discloses that said area includes a pop-up menu (col 3, lines 34-36).

Slotznick further discloses sounds and multimedia (col 1, lines 53-57; col 1, lines 61-64; col 2, lines 12-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Slotznick's presenting the promotion when the user requests

content to Auxier's game before the user is permitted to access the content. One would have been motivated to do this because some users may not want to request the primary information or content if they knew that had to see promotional information first.

Auxier further discloses that when said user indicates a desire to access said address, service, or content via the computer network, causing an advertising server to present an interactive banner advertisement to the user (Fig. 6),

that, upon presentation of the interactive banner advertisement, said user is permitted access to an address, service, or content only if the user submits an appropriate reply to the interactive banner advertisement (col 8, lines 60-65).

Auxier further discloses targeting information and advertising to a specific user (col 3, lines 11-15)

Auxier does not explicitly disclose preventing access to said desired address, service, or content, and continuing to prevent said access to said desired address, service, or content so long as the user fails to submit the appropriate reply.

However, Hamzy discloses that the user requests access to a website, that a banner or advertisement is presented to the user that blocks access to the site the user requested, and that the user must enter an appropriate reply in order to gain access to the original website requested:

“(10) The present invention provides a system and method for displaying advertisements on the Internet in response to requests for Internet information from a specific website. In response to a request for a specific information available on the web, an advertisement associated with that web page is retrieved and displayed to the user. Within the

display of the advertisement is embedded a randomly placed control function for proceeding from the advertisement to the web page of interest. Once the randomly placed control is activated by the user, the user requested information is displayed.

(11) The random or non-predictive control function can be the placement of buttons within the advertisement display. The control function can be a control key randomly placed within the advertisement. Another control function is asking a question that must be answered before proceeding to the web page of interest. A further control function according to the invention is to display the advertisement which is correlated to the particular web page for a predetermined time period before transferring the window containing the content or web page the user has selected" (col 2, lines 10-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Hamzy's user requesting a website and then presenting and advertisement and blocking access to a user requested website until the user enters an appropriate reply to Auxier's interactive advertisement that can be placed before the user is given access to a site. One would have been motivated to do this in order to present advertising at a time that will attract attention from the user.

Claim 5, 6, 12, 14, 20, 23, 24, 30, 32, 37, 38, 39, 48, 49: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 1 and Auxier, Hamzy, and Slotznick disclose an advertisement as in claim 42.

Auxier discloses television and the Internet (col 1, lines 10-15; col 1, lines 17-21).

Auxier does not explicitly disclose that said electronic address, service, or content provided by a broadcaster on an interactive digital television network.

Auxier does not explicitly disclose an cellular or wirless network.

However, Slotnick discloses that said electronic address, service, or content provided by a broadcaster on an interactive digital television network (col 5, lines 24-28; col 7, lines 35-42).

Slotnick further discloses a wireless network and a cellular network (col 18, lines 25-32).

Slotnick further discloses the utilization of cookies (col 15, lines 40-47).

Slotnick further discloses a plug-in to an Internet browser installed on said user's computing device (col 31, lines 53-55; col 32, lines 1-14).

Slotnick further discloses that said electronic address, service, or content is a subscription-based service (col 16, lines 18-21).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Slotnick's interactive television, cellular, wireless network, and cookies to Auxier's Internet and television. One would have been motivated to do this because interactive television is an obvious device that combines the Internet and television and would appeal to many users and the Internet is obviously manifested on different types of network for the convenience of the user and cookies are a standard and convenient way to store information on a user's device. Furthermore, plug-ins are standard Internet software tools and a subscription service is a standard and convenient way for a user to receive information.

Claim 13, 31: Auxier, Hamzy and Slotnick disclose the method as claimed in claim 12.

Auxier further discloses downloading software (col 2, lines 9-20) and that software is necessary before gaining access to said electronic address, service, content and that that software is retrieved (col 4, lines 45-50; Fig. 3).

Auxier does not explicitly disclose that the software is a plug-in or that the download occurs when the user requests access to the content.

However, Slotnick discloses a plug-in to an Internet browser installed on said user's computing device (col 31, lines 53-55; col 32, lines 1-14).

Slotnick further discloses downloading required software to the client when the client requests access to the electronic address, service, or content (col 12, lines 40-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Slotnick's plug-in downloaded when the user requests content to Auxier's necessary software which is retrieved to the client device before accessing the content and Auxier' software which is downloaded to the client device. One would have been motivated to do this because a plug-in is a standard Internet software tool and downloading required software when a user requests access to content is a convenient time to download software to a client.

Claim 15, 19: Auxier, Hamzy and Slotnick disclose a method as claimed in claim 14.

Auxier further discloses targeting advertisements to the user (col 3, lines 10-13).

Auxier further discloses collecting user provided information (col 2, lines 39-42; col 7, lines 17-23).

Auxier does not explicitly disclose the steps of identifying said user and determining whether said user has a subscription to said service, and wherein said step of presenting said

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interactive banner advertisement is carried out if said user does not have a subscription to said service.

However, Slotnick discloses the steps of identifying said user and determining whether said user has a subscription to said service, and wherein said step of presenting said interactive banner advertisement is carried out if said user does not have a subscription to said service (col 16, lines 9-29).

Slotnick further discloses that said interactive banner advertisements are selected based on information stored on said user's computing device and information provided by said user (col 16, lines 9-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Slotnick's different information depending on the type of user to Auxier's targeted user. One would have been motivated to do this because targeting a user implies sending that user different information depending upon who the user is.

Claim 43, 45: Auxier, Hamzy and Slotnick disclose an advertisement as claimed in claim 43.

Auxier further discloses that said electronic address, service, or content is content provided by a server connected to the Internet (col 1, lines 10-15).

Auxier further discloses a hyperlink to a website of said advertiser (col 1, lines 33-35).

6. Claim 16-18, 33, 34, 40, 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auxier (6,379,251) in view of Hamzy (6,636,247) in view of Slotnick (6,011,537) in view of Eggleston (6,061,660).

Claim 16: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 1.

Auxier further discloses targeting a user and that a user can be a repeat user (col 3, lines 10-14; col 4, lines 45-54).

Auxier further discloses that the user can win (col 6, lines 25-30).

Auxier further discloses that the user can win prizes in the form of the merchants services (col 6, lines 25-30).

Auxier does not explicitly disclose tallying credits or a subscription service.

However, Slotnick discloses a subscribing user or paying user (col 16, lines 17-22).

Slotnick further discloses that presenting said interactive banner advertisement can be based on the status and history of the user including whether or not the user has a subscription to said service (col 16, lines 9-29). Slotnick further discloses that whether an ad is shown or not can be controlled (col 16, lines 20-25).

Eggleston discloses tallying credits so that a user can receive a prize (col 13, lines 50-67) including the services of a merchant (col 1, lines 33-35; col 13, lines 60-62) and that the credits are tallied in response to a correct answer (col 26, lines 53-58; col 7, lines 45-50) and that the user has an account with credits in it (col 16, lines 54-56).

Eggleston further discloses that a user can be awarded for watching advertising (col 1, lines 37-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Slotnick's subscription service and Slotnick's showing different advertisements to a user based upon the user status and history and Eggleston's tallying of points won as a status about a user to Auxier's targeted user and receiving merchant services as a prize

for correct answers. One would have been motivated to do this because a subscription service is an obvious merchant service and tallying prize totals allows tracking the user for more advanced targeting over the longer term.

Claim 17, 18, 33, 34, 40, 41: Auxier and Hamzy disclose a method as claimed in claim 1.

Auxier further discloses targeting a user and that a user can be a repeat user (col 3, lines 10-14; col 4, lines 45-54).

Auxier further discloses that the user can win (col 6, lines 25-30).

Auxier further discloses that the user can win prizes in the form of the merchants services (col 6, lines 25-30).

Auxier does not explicitly disclose tallying credits or a subscription service.

However, Slotznick discloses a subscribing user or paying user (col 16, lines 17-22).

Slotznick further discloses that presenting said interactive banner advertisement can be based on the status and history of the user including whether or not the user has a subscription to said service (col 16, lines 9-29). Slotznick further discloses that whether an ad is shown or not can be controlled (col 16, lines 20-25).

Eggleston discloses tallying credits so that a user can receive a prize (col 13, lines 50-67) including the services of a merchant (col 1, lines 33-35; col 13, lines 60-62) and that the credits are tallied in response to a correct answer (col 26, lines 53-58; col 7, lines 45-50) and that the user has an account with credits in it (col 16, lines 54-56).

Eggleston further discloses that a user can be awarded for watching advertising (col 1, lines 37-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Slotnick's subscription service and Eggleston's tallying of points won so that a user can receive a merchant service to Auxier's targeted user and receiving merchant services as a prize for correct answers. One would have been motivated to do this because a subscription service is an obvious merchant service and tallying prize totals allows tracking the user for more advanced targeting over the longer term.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 5-49 have been considered but are moot in grounds of the new rejection. Please particularly note the section in the rejection of the independent claim 1 above that starts with, "However, Hamzy discloses that the user requests access to a website, that a banner or advertisement is presented to the user that blocks access to the site the user requested, and that the user must enter an appropriate reply in order to gain access to the original website requested. . .".

Also, Examiner notes that in the Interview on July 12, 2005 that the Applicant states that "there are 2 main steps in the invention. Step 1 is the user request a website. Step 2 is the user being blocked from that same website by a banner advertisement unless the user enters a correct or appropriate answer". Examiner notes that the Hamzy reference, cited in the rejection of the independent claims above, discloses these steps and features.

Examiner further notes that the 35 USC 112 rejection of the action dated 4/7/05 was not addressed by the Applicant's Amendment dated 8/8/05 and that the 35 USC 112 rejection still applies and necessitates response.

Examiner further notes that it is the Applicant's claims as stated in the Applicant's claims that are being rejected with the prior art. Also, although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). And, Examiner notes that claims are given their broadest reasonable construction. See *In re Hyatt*, 211 F.3d 1367, 54 USPQ2d 1664 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

Examiner notes that while specific references were made to the prior art, it is actually also the prior art in its entirety and the combination of the prior art in its entirety that is being referred to. Also, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur Duran whose telephone number is (571) 272-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Fri, 8:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arthur Duran
Patent Examiner
9/15/05